

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
July 09, 2007
Ashland Elementary School Library

Present were Glenn Dion, Daniel Golden, Jeanette I. Stewart, Beth Bartlett, Leigh Sharps, Rick Alpers, Rick Pare, Ed Dupuis, Linda Guyotte and various other members of the public.

Chairman Dion called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes for June 18, 2007 meeting.

Selectman Bartlett made a motion to accept the minutes for June 18, 2007 meeting as presented and/or grammatically corrected. Selectman Stewart seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

II. Old Business

A. Ambulance Study Committee

Mr. Alpers stated that a meeting still needs to be put together. The last one was cancelled due to the holiday week.

B. Booster Club Committee

Selectman Stewart stated that the meeting this morning was with a representative of Custance Brothers Woodworking and Dan Ciarleglio for the purpose of cabinet pricing. Alex Ray is looking for a new commercial refrigerator and other kitchen equipment for the Booster Club. Selectman Stewart stated that it would cost approximately \$50,000 to renovate the Booster Club. Mr. Alpers stated that fund raising would need to begin soon.

C. Tax Deeding/57 Depot Street

Mr. Alpers reported that the Depot Street property had been sold for \$40,000. Legal counsel is currently working on the deed in preparation for a final closing. Mr. Alpers will keep the members of the board updated. Discussion ensued regarding various other properties located in town and the status of repair for each of them. Discussions ensued regarding back taxes owed on property and the procedure for taking the property with and without tenants.

D. Travel Trailer Taxation - 2008

Chairman Dion stated that it has been agreed by the board that this should be happening and can now come off of old business. Travel trailers will be scheduled for pick up by the assessor by April 2008. Mr. Alpers is to send a letter to those people whom would be taxed.

E. Ramp at Beach

Mr. Alpers stated that only one bid was received from Innovative Contractors. Discussions ensued regarding the expansion and securing of the proposed ramp.

Selectman Bartlett made a motion to accept the bid from Innovative Contractors in the amount of \$10,500 for the purpose of a handicap ramp. No new money to be raised, funds to come from specifically created beach account. Selectman Stewart seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Selectman Bartlett stated that she recently attended a Local Government Center Conference regarding junkyard laws and would recommend it to anyone. It was very informative. Selectman Bartlett stated that she received a book and would be willing to leave it in the town office for anyone to look at. Rick Alpers stated that there is already a copy in the office.

III. New Business

A. Kim Koulet – Lakes Region Planning Commission

Mr. Koulet gave a brief overview of what the Lakes Region Planning Commission offers to local towns. Mr. Koulet gave an update of current projects going on around the lakes region. All are welcome to contact the Lakes Region Planning Commission at anytime. The commission is here to help municipalities at all times.

B. Peter Worthington – Raft at Beach

Mr. Worthington stated that he lives on Drew's Landing and is basically a summer resident. Mr. Worthington stated that he was surprised to find the beach raft not being put out in the water this year. After discussing the issues with people on the Fourth of July, Mr. Worthington stated that a lot of people didn't really know why the raft wasn't being put out and who made that decision. Mr. Worthington stated that he wants the Selectmen to understand that when he can present over a hundred signatures regarding this issue that the members of the board know exactly how the town's people felt about the raft issue. Mr. Worthington stated that he believes that e-coli would be an issue with or without the raft and if it was a safety issue, maybe the lifeguards need a bit more instruction. Mr. Worthington stated that it was his goal to impress upon the board to put the raft back in the lake this year. Chairman Dion thanked Mr. Worthington and informed him that it was a board decision and voted on to remove the raft for the 2007 beach season after speaking with the police department and the parks and recreation department. Chairman Dion stated that there wasn't one specific issue that occurred for making the decision, but several. The issues that were present last year are all but gone this year because the raft is not out. The residents that live right by the beach are very happy and Selectman Stewart stated that the people at the campground are just as pleased. Selectman Sharps inquired as to whether or not the raft could be taken in at night. Chairman Dion stated that it would be too heavy. It needs to be anchored down by chains. Selectman Stewart stated that it was a difficult decision to make, but for the safety of the children and

the liability to the town, the decision had to be made. Selectman Sharps stated that she was not on the board at the time the decision was made. Several local residents and tax payers spoke in support of putting the raft back and have the board review their reasons for the removal decision. A suggestion was made to find another way to secure the beach at night, which might include additional fencing. Resident Lee Bavis offered his service anytime the town would like it for water sampling. Selectman Golden stated that he used the raft when he was a teenager and rules had to be followed or you weren't allowed on the beach. Selectman Golden stated that he believes that the raft is a liability for the town. Discussions ensued regarding the raft and its liability or existence of a liability and other issues that need attention at the beach. Chairman Dion thanked all parties for their input and stated that the board would take this issue under advisement and discuss it at the work session scheduled for July 16th at 10:00 am at the town office.

C. Raffle Application – Village Artists Gallery

Selectman Stewart made a motion to approve the raffle application as presented for Village Artists Gallery. Selectman Bartlett seconded the motion. Motion passed with a 4 – 1 vote

D. Proposed Welfare Changes

Selectman Bartlett inquired as to what a maintenance allowance is as referred to in the welfare guidelines. Rick Alpers stated that he believed it had to do with medical allowances and the reference would be for maintenance prescriptions. Chairman Dion stated that it would be fine to wait until the work session for a clarification from Bob Hicks. Chairman Dion stated that the proposed new figures are a direct reflection of the cost of living and the need to update these rates. Discussions ensued regarding criteria for welfare assistance.

E. Zoning Board Appointments – Eric Baker and Michelle Fistek

Selectman Stewart made a motion to approve the appointment of Eric Baker and Michelle Fistek to the Ashland Zoning Board. Selectman Bartlett seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

F. Timber Tax Warrant and Excavation Tax Warrant

The selectmen signed a timber tax warrant in the amount of \$1,261.90 for property owner EFAR, LLC, and an excavation warrant in the amount of \$300.00 for property owner NHNY Marina.

G. Resident vs. Non-Resident Fees

Mr. Alpers stated that in the past, resident tax payers have received the resident fees for summer camp and the beach. If you are a tax payer, but not a full time resident, you would be charged non-resident fees. Mr. Alpers stated that he would like a clarification on the proper procedure. Discussion ensued and further discussion would be necessary at the work session.

Selectman Bartlett stated that she would be attending a required seminar for health officers regarding hazards and emergency responses.

IV. Town Administrator's Report

County Budget: Mr. Alpers stated that the budget had gone up 22%. After a lot of meetings and arguments the county commissioners came back with a 17% increase to the budget.

4th of July: Mr. Alpers stated that all went well and thanks to all who assisted with the annual celebration.

V. Employee Recognition: None at this time

VI. Public Comments and Concerns

Ed Dupuis stated that there is a pole barn being built behind the electric department and would like to know if there is a building permit for it. Mr. Alpers stated that the steel structure was up in the summer of 2004, but was never finished until now. Municipalities are exempt from being required to take out building permits on its self. Mr. Alpers stated that there are issues with the building and he would be happy to have Bob Hicks check out the structure. It is the consensus of the board to have Bob Hicks review the building.

Fire Chief Stewart stated that he would like to have some kind of a town ordinance regarding the throwing of candy from parade vehicles. Selectman Stewart stated that she believes this issue needs to be put before the 4th of July Parade Committee as well. Chief Stewart stated that all parties had been told as they were lining up for the parade, but the request for the most part had been ignored. Chief Stewart stated that this could be a terrible liability. Chief Stewart had been in contact with an officer of the police department during the parade regarding the throwing of candy from vehicles and was told that nothing could be done, because there isn't a town ordinance in place to be enforced. Discussions ensued regarding the issue.

Selectman Sharps inquired as to the members of the board receiving updates from Beth Bartlett and Bob Hicks regarding health issues and code enforcements. Discussions ensued regarding the procedure to keep the board updated.

VII. Procedure & Policy Review – None at this time.

VIII. Non-Public Session – None at this time.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the board, Selectman Stewart made a motion to adjourn at 9:05 pm. Selectman Bartlett seconded this motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

BOS July 9, 2007

***Respectfully Submitted per tape,
Laura L. Plummer***

Approved by the Board of Selectmen:

Glenn R. Dion

Daniel P. Golden

Beth G. Bartlett

Jeanette I. Stewart

Leigh Sharps

Date